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Reflection #2

According to the Royal Literacy Fund, a literature review is a search and evaluation of the available literature in your given subject or chosen topic area.  A literature review has four main objectives; to survey, synthesize, analyze and present information.  It [surveys](https://www.rlf.org.uk/resources/glossary/#survey) the literature in your chosen area of study.  It [synthesizes](https://www.rlf.org.uk/resources/glossary/#synthesise) the information in that literature into a summary.  It [critically analyses](https://www.rlf.org.uk/resources/glossary/#critical) the information gathered by identifying gaps in current knowledge; by showing limitations of theories and points of view; and by formulating areas for further research and reviewing areas of controversy.  It [presents](https://www.rlf.org.uk/resources/glossary/#present) the literature in an organized way.

The literature review is important because it is an analytical summary and synthesis of the current scientific knowledge.  It gives us a chance to summarize the findings of others studies or experiments and attempts to identify trends. A literature review is scholarly in nature, but it is not a primary source or research article. It is important to reference articles such as primary sources or research articles.

Assessing prior research is the part of this project where differentiating between various types of journals is significant. It is our job to research the chosen topic and to determine if sources are creditable and valuable to our study. If we cannot differentiate between articles and online materials, than our thesis may not be accurate. According to Angelo State University, peer-reviewed (refereed or scholarly) journals are articles written by experts and are reviewed by several other experts in the field, before the article is published in the journal in order to insure the article’s quality. In most cases the author is left anonymous to the reviewers, so that the article succeeds or fails on its own merit, not the reputation of the expert.

Theorists in the education world are imperative. The study or topic of choice should be backed up by a theory. It is our job to research and determine which theories match our topic. It is important that we are selecting an area that has research and can be proven in some way. Most of theses theories and theorists are from the past and have shown to be true, successful and commendable. By looking current instructional strategies, we have the opportunity to get ideas for our own project. Through this research we will observe what strategies have failed and what interventions flourished. This will guide us in our own findings.

Resources:

1. Royal Literacy Fund <https://www.rlf.org.uk/resources/what-is-a-literature-review/>
2. New Jersey Institute of Technology. *Research Roadmaps: Types of Scholarly Articles*. http://researchguides.njit.edu/content.php?pid=186422&sid=5145228